

**Town of North Stonington, CT  
HEWITT FARM COMMITTEE**

**REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

**Monday, January 23, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.  
New Town Hall Conference Room**

The meeting of the Hewitt Farm Committee was called to order by Co-chair Nita Kincaid at 3:09 p.m. in the New Town Hall Conference Room with members Brian Banker, Ellie Banker, Jack Brown, Dick "Coop" Cooper, Ed Harasimowitz and Nita Kincaid present.

First Selectman Shawn Murphy arrived at approximately 4:15 p.m. to notify members that all town committee and board members would soon be given town-related email addresses to use for communications related to the town. He also took the opportunity to thank the group for the work it does in managing Hewitt Farm.

At the beginning of the meeting Nita requested an addition to the agenda for a brief review of the Hewitt Farm committee's 2017/2018 Budget Proposal. The group approved this addition.

1) Approve of 01/09/2017 Meeting Minutes

Ed motioned and Brian seconded to approve the 01/09/2017 Meeting Minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

2) 2017/2018 Budget Request

Nita distributed a draft of the *Hewitt Farm Committee Budget Request for Fiscal Year July 1, 2017 - June 30, 2018* that she had prepared for review, discussion and approval by the committee. She explained the format and her rationale for the amount of the request.

After some discussion, committee members agreed that the 2017/2018 Budget Request should be submitted. The group also agreed that if money remains from the current year's Hewitt Farm \$5000.00 budget when we approach June 30, 2017 (fiscal year end), we should be prepared to use it to update plumbing fixtures in the 1750 Farm House. These fixtures are very old and have had a number of problems in recent years.

3) Survey on the Governance of North Stonington

Nita described the “Survey Monkey” survey that had been emailed to every town employee and member of a North Stonington board, commission and committee requesting their opinion on the structure and operation of town government. She encouraged all Hewitt Farm Committee members to “take” the survey.

#### 4) Update on Eagle Scout Projects

Nita reported that she had received assurance from Nicole Gagnon, Girl Scout troop leader, that the troop does in fact want to undertake constructing a picnic area at the northern end of the pond. Nita told Eagle Scout Candidate Ethan Smith, who had also inquired about the same project, that the girls were being given priority because they earlier expressed an interest in the work.

Nita provided Ethan with a list of other possible Hewitt Farm projects and offered to have someone on the committee meet with him to discuss them.

Coop reported that he had met with Nate Cherenzia at the site of his proposed project, and that they had taken measurements and discussed several possible bridge designs. Nate will attend a committee meeting soon to describe his concept and solicit approval to proceed with its design.

Coop also noted that Nate had indicated an interest in using some of the pilings that are stacked behind the 1750 Farm House for his bridge. Nate said he would contact Jason Miner to see how many he needs and will inform committee members when he meets with them.

#### 5) Pros and Cons of Saving/Demolishing Greene Gables and The Cabin

Nita distributed a draft of a document that lists the pros and cons of saving or demolishing Greene Gables and the Cabin. The document was generated at the 01/09/2017 meeting and reworked by Nita based on comments and suggestions by committee members at that time.

The group reviewed the list item by item, again discussing the ramifications of renovating, restoring, stabilizing or demolishing the structures. Ellie suggested that Greene Gables could possibly be used by the school system, but the committee could not envision for what purpose. Members agreed that they had exhausted many ideas in their previous discussions.

The group agreed to several changes to the document and Nita will finalize it for approval at the next meeting. It will then be submitted to First Selectman Murphy.

Jack suggested using bullets instead of numbers on the pros and cons lists so as not to imply a level of importance. The group agreed.

Coop noted that a copy of the document should be sent to the Historical Society at that same time it is submitted to First Selectman Murphy. Coop will compose a cover letter for this purpose. The committee will review it before it is sent.

6) Member Updates on Projects and Additional Items for Discussion

Jack described his construction and placement of bunny “patches” throughout Hewitt Farm and invited members to watch for signs of bunnies (or the bunnies themselves) throughout the winter and spring months. Jack noted that he had set out a stack of wood for anyone interested in building duck boxes. He suggested that the committee offer the wood to the Boy Scouts.

Jack also recommended asking the Community Garden members not to mow too wide a border around their garden. Nita will bring this to Bill or Mary Ann Ricker's attention.

Nita reported that she had submitted the invoice from sign-maker Jeff Danforth for our recent purchase of Trail Signs. Coop added that all the signs have been mounted and look good. He will update the sign inventory list.

Ed suggested removing the railing around the 1750 Farm House, possibly when the side porch is being removed. Salvageable parts of the railing would be stored in a dry location possibly the barn loft until such time as it can be restored and reinstalled around the house. Nita suggested leaving some of the posts and rails along the front of the house.

7) Priorities for February 6, 2017

- Review of “Pros and Cons” List
- Review of “Pros and Cons” List Cover Letter
- Update on Eagle Scout projects
- Work on the 1750 Farm House

Respectfully submitted, Richard B. Cooper